

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012695

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:KKURZE

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:KKURZE

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O 200737Z JAN 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 012695

TOSEC 264

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SAM 86970

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SAIGON DATED JANUARY 20, 1974
SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, CH, TS, VS

SUBJECT: PRCGVN CLASH IN PARACELS

REF: SAIGON 863

1. WE THINK IN FRAMING POSSIBLE COMMENT TO PRESS ON SUBJECT OF
PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS WE SHOULD KEEP VERY MUCH IN MIND WHETHER
OR NOT THIS INCIDENT WILL TEND TO MOVE PRC TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT
OF THE DRV. ALTHOUGH HANOI HAS NOT MADE ANY COMPLAINT CONCERNING
NATIONALISTIC FEELS OF ALL VIETNAMESE THEIR ATTITUDE ON THIS
ISSUE MUST BE ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT OF THE GVN. WE HAVE HAD BITS
AND PIECES OF EVIDENCE THAT THE DRV, ASSUMING ITS ULTIMATE
VICTORY OVER THE GVN, IS ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT OFFSHORE OIL IN
SVN AS WELL AS IN THEIR OWN TERRITORY. WE WOULD THEREFORE
THINK THAT EXERCISE OF FORCE MAJEURE BY THE PRC TO OCCUPY
TERRITORY LONG CLAIMED BY ALL VIETNAMESE, NORTH AND SOUTH, IS

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 012695

AN ISSUE, WHICH IF DEPT COULD DEVISE APPROPRIATE MODALITIES, COULD

BE EXPLOITED AS A DIVISIVE WEDGE BETWEEN HANOI AND PEKING.

2. PRC IS MANIFESTLY EMBARKED ON EFFORT TO NAIL DOWN CLAIM
TO A SHARE OF THE PRESUMABLY OIL-RICH CONTINENTAL SHELF OF SOUTH
CHINA SEA. FACT THAT SPRATLY ISLANDS MAY BE NEXT ON THEIR LIST
ADDS URGENCY TO ABOVE SUBJECT.
MARTIN UNQUOTE RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, ISLAND CLAIMS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE012695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:KKURZE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabbdm.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 863
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRGCVN CLASH IN PARACELS
TAGS: PBOR, CH, TS, VS, PF
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005